

Grim Quiet

Short Stories: Volume 1



Written & Illustrated By Eric Millen

Grim Quiet
Short Stories Volume 1 (preview)
by
Eric "Super Villain" Millen

This book is best read late at night by candlelight alone in an old, haunted house by the sea during a storm....

....dedicated to my love, Kristina.

A Long Walk Alone



A Long Walk Alone

It was too far and too cold for James to walk home from school in one trip during the winter months. In these months James would stop at his aunt's house, rest and eat dinner. Then, he would pick up his lantern and finish his trip home. There was an abandoned graveyard between his aunt's home and James' home. One of James' favorite things to do when he reached the graveyard was to find a big rock and throw it at an old, decaying gravestone.

On this particular night James found his rock as usual, set down his lantern and lined up a short distance away from the old, cracked tombstone. James wound up his arm and let the rock fly. He waited for the familiar sound of the rock knocking against the gravestone and echoing through the abandoned woods. However, this time the rock made a completely different sound as it shattered the old tombstone into a hundred pieces and then fell silent.

James stood confused by what had happened. He never thought his game of throwing stones would ever result in destroying a tombstone. No one saw or heard what James had done, but he still panicked. James picked up his lantern and swiftly walked home. Would someone find out what he had done? James asked himself over and over. As James hurried home in the dark, cold night he heard something sliding and dragging gently on the ground behind him.

"What is that?" James thought. He shined his lantern on the trees, but only saw the white branches glowing in the night like skeleton bones. The woods are not safe at night and James was late returning home. So, his father went looking for James on the forest path. He reached James' footprints in the snow and lantern on the ground. There the foot prints simply stopped, as if something had picked him up and carried him into the night.

Waiting For Mom and Dad To Get Home



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I was very young. When my mom and dad said they were going for an evening walk I was surprised to hear I was not invited. I was hurt that I was being left out, but I also felt very proud to be old enough to stay home alone. It was the first time I had ever been home alone. My mother gave me a kiss and said, "Be a good boy. We'll be home soon." My dad laughed and out the door they went.

At first, I liked the freedom of being alone. I could do what I wanted. I could run up and down the stairs, stomp on the floors and scream. So I did. However, my excitement quickly turned into an eerie loneliness. I missed my parents and I didn't like being in this big, dark home alone. I panicked a little, felt I was being watched and maybe wasn't alone. I lit a candle to help break the oncoming darkness and went to the window to wait for my parents.

The evening grew darker and the house grew even darker still. It got to the point I was afraid to turn around and look behind me. I just kept my focus on looking outside and hoping to see my mother and father. It seemed like forever, but I finally saw them. I was so happy. I smiled as I watched them walk up the path. They stopped and smiled back at me.

Then, their smiles turned to looks of horror. They seemed to be focused on something behind me. My father ran to the door as my mother screamed for me to open the window and climb out. I opened the window and climbed into her arms. We both saw my father in the room now searching and saying, "there's no one here." They told me they saw someone or something standing behind me. I no longer enjoy the freedom of being home alone.

Where Do Spiders Come From



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The small family noticed their old home had a problem when they found three large spiders in their food pantry. Every week after that, they found a new group of spiders. One week, spiders in the bathroom cabinet and the next week, spiders in the drawers of their dresser. The father was able to track the spiders to their daughter's room. They were coming from the closet.

At night, the child complained of knocking coming from the closet. Not only did she have to fear giant spiders crawling around the room, but now she had to deal with an eerie knocking coming from inside the closet. It got so bad that the child had to sleep in her parent's bed. The problem was growing out of control and the father decided he needed to find the nest of spiders and destroy it.

Unable to find a nest of spiders in the closet, he decided to break a hole in the wall to try and locate the infestation. He had no luck finding a nest. However, their spider problem stopped. "Maybe I scared them away," the father bragged. Things returned to normal and soon their daughter was able to return to her room. She was no longer afraid of the closet or the spiders.

One night the knocking returned. This time before the young daughter could leave her room and run to her parents, the closet door opened. A tall, bony woman with long, grey hair spoke to the terrified child, "Do you want to know where spiders come from?" The child stood frozen and unable to scream. Then, the bony creature kneeled down on the floor. Opening its mouth, hundreds of spiders crawled out and filled the room.

The Babysitter Was Not Alone



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There was a new family in town with a baby. Sara, a neighbor who loved children hoped they would eventually notice her and ask her to babysit for them. It wasn't long before her wish would come true. In a panic one afternoon, the new neighbors visited with their baby who was oddly covered with a black blanket in his carriage. They introduced themselves to Sara's parents and asked if there was a babysitter in town who could watch their child.

Sara was more than thrilled by the offer and accepted before her parents could speak. That evening, she arrived at the new neighbors' large, dark home. The mother and father were in a rush to leave. They told Sara the baby was fed and asleep for the night. The mother asked Sara not to disturb the baby in his room and to please wait in the living room until they returned home. The couple left before Sara could reply.

Sara was confused and let down. However, she did as they asked and waited in the living room. Until she noticed a teddy bear on a nearby chair. She thought it would be a wonderful excuse to see the baby and she would be doing him a favor by bringing him a companion. On that thought, she went up the long flight of stairs and down the dark hallway until she found the baby's room.

Sara could just make out the figure of the baby, but stopped before entering the room. Something had frightened her. The child was silently standing up in his crib. His eyes glowed as he watched her. Sara regretted coming up to visit him. Then, she noticed something else in the room. A larger figure with glowing eyes was watching her in the dark. It was that moment when Sara realized she and the baby were not alone.